Australian Standard®

Alarm systems for the elderly and other persons at risk

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee TE/16, Personal Alarm Systems. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 5 September 1989 and published on 11 December 1989.

The following interests are represented on Committee TE/16:

Australian Association of Occupational Therapists
Australian Council of Social Services (Incorporated)
Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association
Australian Security Industry Association
Combined Pensioners Association of New South Wales
Confederation of Australian Industry
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 88233.

AS 2999—1989

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First published as AS 2999—1989.

PUBLISHED BY STANDARDS AUSTRALIA
(STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA)
STANDARDS HOUSE, 80 ARTHUR ST, NORTH SYDNEY NSW.
ISBN 0 7262 5929 2

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Personal Alarm Systems and provides consideration of the elements forming an alarm system, sets out recommendations for the various features of typical systems and lays down the safety requirements for systems for persons affected by ageing, disease or disablement or other persons living at risk. The systems are designed for operation by people with sufficient capability and may not be suitable for people who are emotionally or mentally unstable.

It should be noted that some special disabilities may require special provisions which may have to be included in another Standard.

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SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE. This Standard sets out the requirements for the design and operation of, and gives guidance for the selection and provision of alarm systems to give the elderly, and other persons considered to be living at risk, the means to send for, and obtain, assistance.

1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS. The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

STANDARDS

AS
1428 Code of practice for design rules for access by the disabled
1939 Classification of degrees of protection provided by enclosures for electrical equipment
2201 Intruder alarm systems
2201.1 Part 1: Systems installed in client's premises
2201.2 Part 2: Central stations and signalling links
2201.3 Part 3: Detection devices for internal use
2676 Installation and maintenance of batteries in buildings
3000 SAA Wiring Rules
3011 Electrical installations—Secondary batteries installed in buildings

APPROVAL AND TEST SPECIFICATIONS

AS
3100 Definitions and general requirements for electrical materials and equipment
3250 Mains operated electronic and related equipment for household and similar general use
3300 General requirements for household and similar electrical appliances

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Department of Transport and Communications Standards which include frequency and power requirements

1.3 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this Standard the following definitions apply:

1.3.1 Alarm condition—the condition which exists when the local unit sends an alarm signal to the central monitoring station.

1.3.2 Alarm receiving system—the equipment at the central monitoring station which identifies the local unit that initiated an alarm signal.

1.3.3 Alarm signal—a signal sent from a local unit to the central monitoring station to indicate that an alarm condition exists.

1.3.4 Cancelling system—the mechanism by which the alarm is cancelled.

1.3.5 Central monitoring station—a facility which includes the monitoring equipment for the receipt of alarm signals and the appropriate services and staff to initiate and verify response services.

1.3.6 Communication link—the link provided between any two items of equipment e.g. radio, hardwire, telephone communications, fibre optics.

1.3.7 Confirmation signal—the signal indicating to a user that an alarm message has been received and logged at the central monitoring station.

1.3.8 Disconnection—an act deliberate or otherwise which breaks a communication link.

1.3.9 Fault condition—the condition which occurs when the local unit or central monitoring station recognizes that itself, or another part of the system, is faulty.

1.3.10 Fault signal—a signal that indicates a fault condition.

1.3.11 Inactivity monitor—an alarm triggering device which operates automatically when a routine activity being monitored is modified or ceases within a specified period.

1.3.12 Local unit—the equipment, installed near the user, which responds to triggering and other signals and communicates with the central monitoring station.

1.3.13 Normal condition—the state of the system in which—

(a) all sub-units and signal paths required for correct function of the system are operational; and

(b) it is not in the pre-alarm, alarm, fault, disconnection, cancelling or test condition.

1.3.14 Power supply—the source that normally delivers the necessary electrical power to the equipment.

1.3.15 Pre-alarm condition—A condition initiated within the local unit by the receipt of a triggering signal. The pre-alarm period is maintained for a pre-determined time during which visible and audible indication is given to the user that this condition exists. The user may cancel the pre-alarm condition within this time in order to avoid initiation of an alarm signal.

1.3.16 Pre-alarm signal—the signal which indicates that the local unit is in the pre-alarm condition.

1.3.17 Reassurance signal—a signal at the local unit, during the alarm condition, in order to verify for the users, that the alarm system has responded locally to the alarm triggering signal.

1.3.18 Test condition—manually or automatically initiated condition during which all system functions or parts thereof are tested.

1.3.19 Test signal—any signal, manually or automatically initiated with the aim of verifying the correct function of the system or parts thereof.

1.3.20 Trigger device—the device, manually or automatically operated that communicates with the local unit via a communication link.